

**Depressaria putridella, Schiff.**—A species new to Britain (*with two plates*).

By ALFRED SICH, F.E.S.

In the summer of 1906, Mr. E. D. Green, of Lee, gathered some larvæ off umbelliferous plants growing on the Kentish coast, and subsequently bred from them several specimens of a *Depressaria* he was unable to identify. In the autumn of 1908, Mr. Green showed me the insects which were quite new to me, and he very kindly allowed me to take them for examination. In Stainton's *Natural History of the Tineina*, I found a figure and description of a continental species which agreed with Mr. Green's specimens. This was *D. putridella*, Schiff. This identification was then confirmed by comparing the specimens with the description of that species in Zeller's monograph of the genus in the *Linnaea Entomologica*, which, though written over 50 years ago, is still one of the best contributions to the study of the genus. Subsequently, Mr. Tutt and myself compared the moths with Hübner's figure, and with the specimens contained in the Stainton collection of European micro-lepidoptera at the South Kensington Museum. Owing to Mr. Green's further kindness, I was able this year to collect some larvæ myself, and to breed a few specimens. The British specimens are, as might be expected, of a form nearer to the Parisian and Austrian examples, than they are to those from the south of France, where the climatic conditions are more diverse. This species is probably an old inhabitant of Britain, but, from the very local distribution of its foodplant, has hitherto been overlooked. The *Depressariids*, too, are, as a rule, of very unobtrusive habits, and, probably, this species forms no exception. Some of the older British authors have used the name *putridella* in their writings, but, as will be shown later, they had not this species before them.

SYNONYMY.—Species: *Putridella*, Schiff., S.V., 138; Hb., 244; H.S., 450, v., p. 120; Zell., L.E., ix., 218; Hein., 147. Stt., Nat. His. Tin., xii., p. 192, pl. vi., figs. 3a, 3a, 3b; Nolck., Stett. e. Zeit., 1882, p. 190. *Peucedanella*, Mill., Ann. Soc. Cannes, 1880, p. 13, pl. 10, figs. 14, 15.

ORIGINAL DESCRIPTION.—Holzbräunlichter Schabe mit einem Kleinen weissen Mittelpuncte (*Sys. Verz.*, p. 138).

Hübner's figure (*Europ. Schmett.*, vol. v., fig. 244), which must be taken as the type, was evidently drawn from a very well-marked specimen, and, though the abdomen, as depicted, is more like that of a male, the wings, on account of the very dark veins and the pale ground colour, probably represent those of a female. The ground colour of the wings is very pale ochreous-brown. The veins, not accurately drawn, are dark sepia-brown, and a line of the same colour runs along the hindmargin, on which are placed six black spots. Beyond the spots the fringes are of the ground colour, terminated by a sepia-brown line. The discoidal cell is filled up with dark sepia, and, at the end of it, is a white spot. The hindwings are dull greyish-brown, with the veins slightly marked in black, and the termination of the wings and fringes shown by two sepia lines. The palpi, head, and thorax, are of the same colour as the forewings, the last having a dark brown central stripe. In this figure the palpi are too long, giving the figure a *Pyratoid* appearance. The subcostal vein is much too strongly coloured, and the fringes of the forewings should have been dark grey.

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The veins of the forewings are only approximately drawn, vein 11 running into the apex of the wing instead of into the costa about midway. There are only eight veins shown on the left wing, and seven on the right; the black discal spots are not indicated. The brighter British examples of the female conform very well with Hübner's figure, and, doubtless, he had a specimen from Vienna similar to these before him, when he drew it. In the figure in another copy of this work of Hübner, the subcostal vein is not darkened, and the other veins are thickly, and rather confusedly, coloured.

DESCRIPTION OF BRITISH EXAMPLES OF *DEPRESSARIA PUTRIDELLA*.—This is rather a small species, and belongs to that section of the genus in which veins 2 and 3 of the forewings are stalked, or, in other words, in which the lowest vein from the cell is forked near the base. Head, thorax, and patagia, unicolorous with the ground colour of the forewings. The face always paler; second joint of the labial palpi ochreous, mixed with fuscous, usually lighter internally; terminal joint pale ochreous, sometimes with dark basal band; antennæ fuscous. Body ochreous-brown, with a fuscous sublateral stripe on each side beneath. Anal tuft of the ♂ ochreous-grey. Front and middle legs ochreous-grey, darker marked, hind legs pale ochreous on the inner side, darker, and sometimes fuscous-spotted, on the outer side. Forewings rather wide, the costa slightly arched, and the hind margin obliquely rounded. Ground colour pale ochreous-brown, purest on the inner margin and costa. Near the base a blackish transverse mark running from near the inner margin into the fold, well-defined towards the base. Outwardly, this dark mark expands into a longitudinal cloud which lies along the middle of the wing, including the discoidal spots, and sometimes runs nearly up to the apex. The veins of the wing, except the subcostal (vein 12), are very darkly marked with purplish-fuscous. On the last third of the costa, and on the extreme hind margin, is a series of eight or more black spots lying between the veins, and occasionally connected with them. In some specimens there is a short dark cloud lying obliquely across the wing before the hind margin. On the extreme base of the costa is a dark mark, and the paler parts of the wing are often sprinkled with dark scales. About one-third from the base of the wing, and situated near where vein 11 rises from the cell, is a black spot. Below this, in the cell itself, but further from the base, lies the first discal spot, usually black, often elongate. On the disco-cellular lies the second discal spot, which is very conspicuous, being black with a white centre. Midway between the two discal spots, and in a line with them, lies an usually black spot. These four spots vary much in size, shape, and in the absence or presence of white scaling, but the three in the cell are always in a line. The fringes are dark ochreous-grey, with one central paler line, and a second on the extreme margin.

The hindwings dark grey, lighter at the base, the veins somewhat darker marked; some dark spots round apex and hind margin. Fringes dark grey or dark ochreous-brown, often bisected by a paler line.

SEXUAL DIMORPHISM.—The antennæ of the ♂ are stouter than those of the ♀. The forewings are more unicolorous than those of the ♀, which, even in dark specimens, shows a greater contrast between the paler costal and inner marginal areas, as compared with the darker disc of the wing. The ground colour of the hindwings in the ♂ is darker,

and more of a dove-grey than it is in the ♀. The underside of all the wings and the fringes is darker grey in the ♂, the ♀ usually exhibiting a strong ochreous admixture in the ground colour of the underside. The anal tuft of the ♂ is distinct, but not conspicuous. In expanse, the ♂s measure 15mm.-17mm., and the ♀s 16mm.-18mm. The smallest specimen I have seen is a ♂, which expands 13mm.

## DESCRIPTION OF PLATE XV.

- |          |                                                                        |                 |
|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Fig. 1.  | <i>Depressaria putridella</i> ♂                                        | } All these × 2 |
| " 2.     | <i>D. putridella</i> ♀.                                                |                 |
| " 3 & 4. | <i>D. putridella</i> .                                                 |                 |
| " 5 & 6. | <i>D. yeatiana</i> .                                                   |                 |
| " 7 & 8. | <i>D. umbellana</i> .                                                  |                 |
| " 9.     | The same figures as 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 repeated, but of natural size. |                 |

(To be continued.)

### A day with *Chrysophanus dispar* var. *rutilus*.

By E. M. DADD, F.E.S.

July 18th, 1909, was a sunny but windy day, but, in spite of the wind, I decided to go to Finkenkrug, as I was desirous of getting females of *Lycaenaalcon*. This species is very local in the Berlin district, as its foodplant, *Gentiana pneumonanthe*, is confined to marshy meadows.

The Grosse Laake, at Finkenkrug, is one of the chief localities for the larvæ of *Adkinia graphodactyla* feeding on the gentian flowers. However, the search for *L.alcon* proved abortive, not a single specimen being seen; perhaps I was too late. *Polyommatus amandus* and *Cyaniris semiargus* were perfect wrecks, only a few possible females of *Loweia alciphron* and *Chrysophanus hippothoë* were left, scarcely a *Melitæa* was to be observed, and only the abundance of *Brenthis ino* ♀ from red to deep bluish-black compensated somewhat for one's efforts. But the wind which continued to increase in strength, soon made collecting impossible except in sheltered corners.

Having secured a fair series of *B. ino* ♀, I decided to take a look at the *Chrysophanus rutilus* ground, which is a water-meadow beside a small stream overgrown with reeds and sedges, and, generally speaking, impassable. On the way I had to traverse a small portion of bushy woodland, and here that extraordinary skipper *Heteropterus morphæus* was not uncommon; also a few *Araschina* var. *prorsa* and *Eugonia polychloros* were about.

On arriving at the meadow where *C. var. rutilus* is to be found, I was pleased to see that it was dry enough to work, and it was not long before the first male *rutilus* was observed on a thistle-head. Meanwhile the wind so increased in power that flight was out of the question for butterflies, but, probably owing to this circumstance, I made a very good bag of the species, seven males and eight females. With one exception, they were all seated on thistle, scabious or ragwort flowers, and were so intimidated by the wind, that one could have picked them off with the hand.

Unfortunately, the males were somewhat worn, but the females were in grand condition. Besides *C. var. rutilus*, *Heodes ciryæureæ* was in countless numbers, and a few females of *C. hippothoë*, *Loweia*